

April 22, 2015

Testimony on House Bills 4188, 4189, 4190 – Oppose  
Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services Committee

Clint McCormack  
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Dear Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services Committee Member:

My name is Clint McCormack and I am a resident of Farmington Hills where I live with my partner of 23 years, Bryan Reamer, and our 13 children.

As an adoptive father to 10, and foster father to 3, I'm writing in opposition to House Bills 4188, 4189, and 4190, which seek to allow child placement agencies to discriminate against families like mine.

When Bryan and I were looking to foster our first child in 1998, we approached Catholics Social Services in Ann Arbor, and were subsequently turned away for being gay. Fortunately for us, Fostering Futures in Ann Arbor was available.

After turning to Fostering Futures, we decided to instead move forward with adoption. We adopted our first son, Keegan in 1998. A year later, we adopted our twins, Kenny and Mark. Immediately after that came Caleb and over the next several years came Seth, Garrett, Graeme, Hayden, Liam and Cooper. Most recently, a year ago, we became foster parents to three girls.

Bryan and I never expected to have such a large family but we kept finding room in our hearts for more.

It's hard enough for foster kids as it is; so many of them age out of the system. To a child, the make-up of a family doesn't matter. All a child wants is to be part of a loving family.

House Bills 4188, 4189, and 4190 would create an added burden for families like mine that want to and can give a child a good life and a future. These bills will only prevent even more children from obtaining the loving homes, stability, and upbringing they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Clint McCormack